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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1897.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM.

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THE great loss to science in the death of George Brown Goode is becoming every day more apparent and especially in view of the difficulties by which the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution must find themselves confronted in the selection of his successor as Assistant Secretary.

Under the existing relations of the Institution and the National Museum, and the accepted traditions relating to succession, the task must seem well-nigh impossible. While the present situation may not be considered as a crisis in the affairs of the Smithsonian Institution, it cannot be improper for SCIENCE to invite the attention of its readers, and especially of the Regents, to a feeling on the part of a large number of its friends that the time has come for a more or less complete separation of the two organizations and that such separation in the near future ought to be assumed in selecting a successor to Goode.

The reasons for this are so numerous and so convincing, when once the Smithsonian bequest and its interpretation by Joseph Henry are considered, that argument seems unnecessary. It may be well, however, to refer to a few of the more important points,